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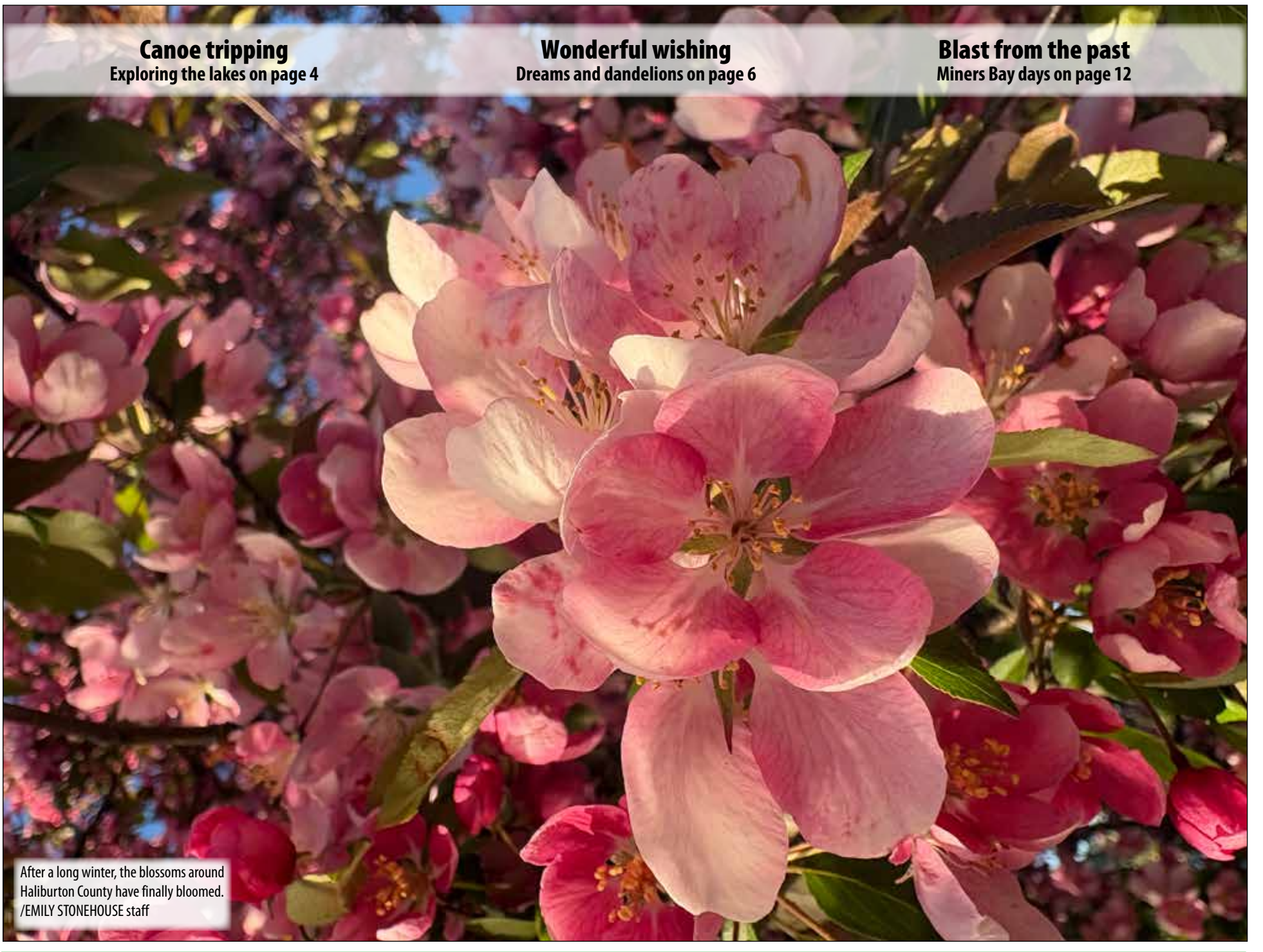
Exploring the lakes on page 4

**Wonderful wishing**
Dreams and dandelions on page 6

**Blast from the past**
Miners Bay days on page 12



After a long winter, the blossoms around Haliburton County have finally bloomed. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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# YANNICK: *Growing*

MORNING! IT'S Yannick. I'm 10, and in the Grade 5 part of Miss Fields' split class. There are 26 kids in here, but a slightly older girl has been joining us three afternoons a week. Another teacher sits with her at a desk near the door. I can hear them whisper about the lessons.

So far, I'm kind of loving September. It was tough to leave summer, but an interesting teacher can make the hours fly. The 3:10 bell often startles me, and I'm sad to exit school.

These monthly 'editorials' we're going to collect are like time travel. What I write this month will probably be very different from what I'll be saying next June. Lately, I suddenly seem to be growing. Fast.

**DEB REED**
*Wind in the Attic*

I wonder if I'll have more zits than these two next summer. Hope not. Today they're on the left side of my nose. Dad pointed them out and suggested I start washing with actual soap. He's just bought me some spicy men's deodorant that I think smells just as bad as bodies! Smearing stinky blue jelly under my arms is a very awkward thing to do before school. I'm already rushing around trying to find clean-enough clothes and helping put together a 'healthy lunch'. My parents want me to increase my fruit and veg, and to be more active outdoors. No worries. I'll join recess tetherball instead of trying the latest flavour chips with my peeps on the schoolyard bench.

Indoor stuff rocks best for me. I love when Miss Fields turns 'old school' and has us practise cursive, or invites us up to read or recite poems. Being 'on stage' always feels amazing. Lately, on weekends, I've been creating a play with a bunch of cool friends. It's more like a skit, with jokes, dancing and singing. But it's also about bullying. My parents go to church every Sunday, but I have a choice. I usually choose to stay home with Grandpa. He microwaves movie-style popcorn for me and my noisy crew while we rehearse for Miss Fields' Talent Show. When my family gets back from church, Mom goes straight to her phone for hours. She hardly notices who's come over for 'play' dates, or how long they stay! She's just obsessed with Sunday podcasts.

Last summer was especially awesome. The whole family - me, Mom, Dad, Grandpa, sister - visited Tadoussac on the St. Lawrence River in Québec. It's near an actual fjord, and has crazy giant sand dunes. The long drive there was gorgeous, and we stopped for real roadside poutine. I even asked for extra curds and gravy. IN FRENCH!

We went out in inflatable dinghies and wore orange safety suits that float if a killer whale capsizes you. Just kidding. Orcas are pretty rare near the mouth of the Saguenay River. But we did spot minkes, a humpback, and some cute belugas, seals and porpoises.

Canada, eh? We drove from moose to whales in one single day. Now *that's* outdoors.

*Author's note: Here's the latest in our alphabetical series, Dickens-style, introducing a fictional Central Ontario classroom which recognizes student individuality, diversity, similarity, and wide-open growing on the verge of their futures. It's also our effort to help celebrate devoted teachers everywhere. We invite all ages, but especially kids, to enjoy reading these chapters out loud. ROOM 10 will soon be available in picture book format. A similar series will follow this one. Stay tuned!*

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# All there is to know about canoes

**STEVE GALEA**
*Beyond 35*

NOT THAT long ago, I listened to a group of people discussing canoes. They spoke authoritatively about Prospector canoes, Algonquin canoes, Keewatin canoes, solo canoes, cedar strip canoes, canvas-covered canoes, Kevlar canoes, Kevlar fusion canoes, polyethylene canoes, aluminium canoes, dug out canoes, skin-covered canoes, ballistic nylon canoes, and even birch bark canoes.

After hearing all that, I knew that they did not know a thing about canoes.

You see, anyone who does will tell you there are only two types of canoes. They are the canoe that you beached securely at your campsite, and the canoe that you *thought* you beached securely at your campsite. Everything else is just pedantic.

For those who are new to canoes, I will explain the difference. The first type of canoe – the one you beached securely at your campsite – is a gem. It is the thing that brought you to that perfect little spot on that isolated island in the middle of that big windswept lake. This canoe is a friend and a comfort. It's the starring photo on your social media page. It represents independence, solitude, peace, a connection with nature and a conveyance designed to help you find yourself. It is what will carry you home.

The second type of canoe – the one you thought you beached securely at your campsite – is a #$%@!!!, dumb @#$!!!!! piece of #@$%!.

Do not buy one of these!

When you discover you have this type of wandering canoe, you wonder how it happened. But soon you realize blame is unimportant. Until, that is, you figure out that it rests solely on your canoeing partner. Sure, he or she will deny it – and perhaps even have photographic evidence to back up that claim. But they are still wrong, because as everyone knows, if you had done the job, that canoe would have never left.

The second type of canoe has some real design flaws. On shore, they are about 16-feet long, but when you first notice it out there on the lake, the darn thing has inexplicably shrunk to what appears to be a speck on the horizon in length. Its poor design also means that it, invariably, floats downwind, riding the whitecaps, towards a distant outflow.

This is why, despite what all my canoeing partners say, you can never actually use too much caution when

you secure a canoe to shore. There is absolutely nothing wrong with bringing your canoe ashore as much as 300 feet over the high water mark and then chaining it to sturdy trees at both ends– so long as you do not forget to also use a backup system that consists of a minimum of 200 feet of paracord, wound through every conceivable tie off point of your canoe and to a minimum of one dozen or so immovable boulders in the immediate vicinity.

Is this the system of someone who still has PTSD (Post traumatic swim disorder) from chasing an escaping canoe halfway down a lake? Don't be absurd.

It is the system of a person who did all that and forgot to bring along a paddle or a plan on how to board an escaping canoe.

Don't ask how I know.

Luckily, my paddling partner realized that 200 feet of paracord was still attached to the canoe and a dozen immovable boulders.

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## *Writing on the Senior Side*

# *Happy Father's Day*

**GAIL STELTER**
*County Life* Contributor

Father's Day brings thoughts and memories that are unique to each of us and that mix and ramble around in our minds and hearts. There is the male who fathered you biologically, and there is a dad who fathered you in life. They can be the same, or not. Wherever you find yourself on Father's Day in 2026, it is a day to pause and remember. Here are my Father's Day random memories. I hope you enjoy them. Perhaps they will resonate with you, or perhaps they will trigger completely different, equally happy memories.

### He was my dad

He was overseas when his son was born, and he met him and held him for the first time at Union Station on September 11, 1945. His son was two years and seven months old. The war was over, and his wife had bought them a house at 21 Smithfield Drive in the new-build area of South Etobicoke. A family reunion like no other. A momentous time of love and anticipation for his new life as a dad.

He was present and overwhelmed with love when his baby girl was born four years later. He held her in his arms and wrapped her in love. He would be the one to get up during the night when she cried. He wasn't going to miss the baby years this time. He was the one who came to her in the night when she woke with the usual childhood illnesses. He was the one who came into her room every night to open the window, tuck her in, tell her to say her prayers and give her a kiss goodnight. He was the one who sang with her and talked about life and love and reaching for the stars. Their Saturday morning escapades were always fun, just the two of them out and about in the city as CHUM blasted from the car radio.

I cannot pick just one memory, but if I did, I would include this: one Christmas, while the family was together decorating the tree, he taught me how to waltz, and we laughed and sang the Christmas Waltz as we waltzed around that tiny living room.

I still get tears every time I remember the shock of his death on St. Patrick's Day, 1975. I was twenty-six years old. I remember thinking there are only two people in the world who really "get me", one was my dad, and the other was my husband, and I just lost one of them. Life goes on, and the memories are mine forever. Father's Day is a perfect day to pause, smile and cry a little and remember the love.

### He is the father of our four children

He never had a dad. He didn't have any memories. He created himself as a dad, and it was amazing. It felt like he was writing a new book on fatherhood, his fatherhood. I asked him what two or three memories he has of being a dad to our four young children.

He tells me that coming home from work and seeing his four little ones playing outside, or all of us in the backyard pool, was perfect. Or gathering them all up to go and play in the snow while he shovelled the driveway. He talked about those years, when he would take them all grocery shopping to give me a break, and they would do the rounds to find the best prices and get fun treats, and later, when I was teaching, he missed work every P.A. Day to have an outing with them, which often included a trip to Toys R Us and each one got $10 to buy a toy. He puts these into his new fatherhood book.

Coaching all four kids at one time or another also gets into the book. He coached Nicole's softball team. He wore a cowboy hat and smoked a cigar. He coached Becky's T-ball team of five-year-olds (no cigar and a baseball cap). He taught the girls to throw the ball to first base. Other coaches told the girls to roll the ball towards first. By the end of the season, they could throw it, and the first base girl could catch it. They won the championship. He coached hockey before our son, Peter, was old enough to play, and we went to watch, and then he coached him and our second son, Jim, too; a total of 13 years coaching minor hockey. He coached Jim in rep baseball. But he tells me that playing with his own kids was the best memory: Playing catch on the street or taking the kids to the big park area near our house to teach them golf; taking the boys golfing, where they had a great time despite their fussing and "ruining" his game. He had our driveway paved to include a three-point circle, and he spent hours with Jimmy rebounding his three-point shots, even in the cold and dark November nights.

He remembered packing our big Ford LTD for our weekend camping with four kids in a tent. I can still see him. He took the legs of the high chair and nailed the chair to the picnic table. There was also the move the play pen routine: outside by day and into the tent to be the baby's bed at night. Oh my, we were crazy. The kids loved swimming, fishing, and the all-day campfire, and so did he.

There's more, so much more. I can't fit it all in, and his memories of our four teenagers and adult children are not in this story. He definitely has a wonderful fatherhood book of memories. It is full, and Father's Day is a great day to remember.

### He is the grandfather of nine

It is such a joy to be a grandfather. When you're a grandpa, you get to play with your little ones again and having them all around you makes it a special and revered time of your life. They are a part of you, and your love for them is boundless.

Okay, I say, tell me a few of your favourite memories of being 'grampa'.

He remembers watching me read stories to the little ones and teaching others to play poker. He remembers campfires, boating, fishing and all that our home on the lake in Haliburton offered. Those were years when three of them were with us after school and all summer. He was the one to go and meet the school bus at the beach and get down in the dirt and play. Those were the years that seven of the nine gathered together on the boat and played outside all day, from horseshoes to outdoor ping pong to bouncing on the water trampoline. And then two more, new little ones, to love. In recent years, there has been the joy of being with all nine for our cottage weeks. He remembers the Thanksgiving hikes in the Sculpture Forest and the family football games at Glebe Park. He has travelled and watched them dance in the Nutcracker, play a lead role in Wicked and play hockey, baseball, soccer, volleyball and basketball. He plays golf with them, and they are his favourite golf buddies. He loves being a grampa. Happy Father's Day.

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Where: Minden Hills Community Centre
www.haliburtonarts.on.ca

**Classic Vehicle Cruise Night**
When: June 25, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: A&W Parking Lot, Haliburton
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**Canada Day Car Show**
When: July 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Water Street, Minden
Rain or Shine.

**Classic Vehicle Cruise Night**
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## Wish

EVERY TIME I feel a pang of sadness about one chapter closing in the childhood of my son, a whole other chapter emerges through the light.

At just over two years old, my son's baby days are now over. I've spent the past few weeks folding up onesies and packing away shoes that were purchased before I had even met him, but never once saw the ground (babies don't walk, I don't know why I bought him so many shoes?!)

**EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*County Life Editor*

But as I feel that sadness seep into my soul, I turn to look to his light. His favourite pastime these days involves dandelions. He was captivated by them when they first sprouted from the ground, his tiny fingers gripping and pulling one of the millions that sprinkled our yard, handing me my favourite form of bouquet. But now their feathery yellow wisps have grown into delicate and miniscule fairy parasols, tiny wishes looking for their next home.

My son is mesmerized by their existence. Dancing and soaring across a sky that refuses to set.

Little does he know that every wish is for him, the little one standing right in front of me.

It got me thinking about the concept of wishing. It's engrained into our society. A wish on birthday candles, on shooting stars, on salt and sea air and strings of beads.

The roots of many of these concepts span further than most of us know. In ancient Greece, candles were used to circle cakes to represent the moon. Many looked to the smoke that came from candles as the real transporter of hope, as it swirled and spiraled to a world above our own.

We also wish on shooting stars. It is assumed that around the second-century A.D., the Greek astronomer Ptolemy shared that while the gods were looking over their earthly spheres, one would occasionally slip a star. It was thought that because this happened so infrequently, it meant that at that exact moment, the gods were watching you. Celebrating the space you are in.

Dandelion wishes seem to have more of a European background, with Gaelic and Celtic stories sharing that the seeds would evolve to fairies or sprites. In fact, the Latin word for the common dandelion is "Taraxacum officinale" which translates to "fairy clocks".

While the exact origins of many of our wishing methods are largely unknown and based on stories passed down from centuries, the practice of wishing has held strong.

I remember during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, harvesting the heads of some dandelions that had gone to puff. I kept them in a mason jar, and when our girls were little and feeling lonely and scared, we would take out a wish to spread a little hope into the world.

The common denominator with wishing tactics is the underlying current of magic and a belief in tomorrow. You wish for safety, for health, for security, for love. When we were little, we wished for new toys, infinite birthdays, or a friend at school.

As we grow, the wishes turn from our own wants and needs, to that of our family and friends. A healthy life, a safe trip, a better tomorrow.

So as I watch my son close one chapter and slowly peek onto the page of the next, I hope he never stops chasing magic, never stops believing in tomorrow, and most importantly, never stops making wishes, whenever the universe allows.

# Top 10 things to do after you swallow a mosquito

IF YOU spend the summer in cottage country, it's bound to happen. You will eventually swallow a mosquito. Yet, despite how common this occurrence is there is no written etiquette on what to do after the event.

**STEVE GALEA**
Humour Columnist

As an expert in the field (I've swallowed 7 this week), permit me to provide my top 10 list of what to do when this happens.

1. Be thankful a dragon fly was not in close pursuit.
2. Start worrying what it might bite on the way out.
3. Look on the bright side. In terms of caloric intake, they're practically free food!
4. Chew each bite at least three times.
5. Stare straight into the remaining swarm of mosquitoes and yell, "Who's next?"
6. Act as if you meant to do it by saying, "ribbet!"
7. Stop running through a wetland with your mouth wide open.
8. Try not to go on about the hunter becoming the hunted.
9. Maybe reconsider that second helping.
10. Apologize for not sharing.

# Willow

Burls bulging beneath the bark of a willow,
the girth of its trunk riddled with growths, birthing new ones each time I pay the ancient willow a visit,
well over a century old, standing at a distance, on the path, where strangers pause to take photographs
of this behemoth of a tree, its branches, drooping like seaweed, skimming blades of grass,
strangers parting its curtain of green tresses, to lean against its trunk, or squat next to it,
smiling as the picture is snapped, the old willow, like an exhibit, where people come to view it for free,
parents placing their children in front of the burls protruding from its trunk, commanding them to smile
as they capture the image of the tree that once was as young and unblemished as they were,
the willow growing alongside other trees, taller and wider than the rest, long before a path was paved,
that meanders like a River past the patch of grass where the willow stands,
small hands exploring the rough terrain of its trunk, as more photographs are snapped,
creating memories for their future selves, in case they don't remember this day in June,
when the grown-ups swooned, wilting in the heat, blotting their brows with the backs of their hands,
as they directed their children to move a little bit more to the left or right, or sit on the grass
and gaze up at the tree, that remains stoic and still, as its branches droop in the heat,
I slouch on the path, Sun searing the flesh on my feet and neck, admiring the ancient willow,
along with other strangers, my eyes skittering up and down its trunk,
wondering whether it feels all the burls bulging beneath its bark,
the way I sometimes feel all my lumps and bumps
and scars, laying quiet and still in the dark, breathing deep into the hollow spaces,
soothing my secret wounds that nobody sees, hands busy taking pictures of this ancient anomaly of a tree,
outliving the others that have withered from weather or illness,
a squirrel scurries past the bulbous trunk of the willow, half the fur on its tail, missing,
the clumps that remain, fraying, a child posing for a picture beside the old willow, pointing at the squirrel
as it darts past, their parent directing them to keep pointing, so they can capture the moment,
the squirrel swishing its maimed tail as it forages in the grass, in the shade of the old willow
that wilts in the June heat, strangers strolling past, along the pebbled path,
pausing to pose or take a photograph,
a child running toward the tree, to hug the swollen belly of its trunk as if it were human,
ignoring their parent's plea to turn around so they can capture the moment that's already passed.

*Sylvie Kalenda*

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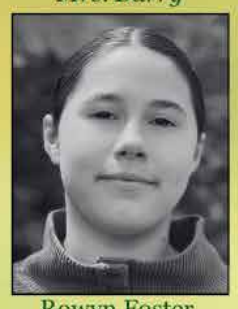
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Royal Home offers 2+1 bedrooms & 2 full bathrooms, along the shores of Minden Lake. Open concept living/ dining space w/ vaulted ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows. Detached garage fully equipped with its own electrical panel, connected to the main service via underground, perfect for a workshop, extra storage, or hobby space. Property is a registered Short-Term Rental, offering excellent income potential or the flexibility to offset ownership costs.

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## WENONA LAKE $1,200,000

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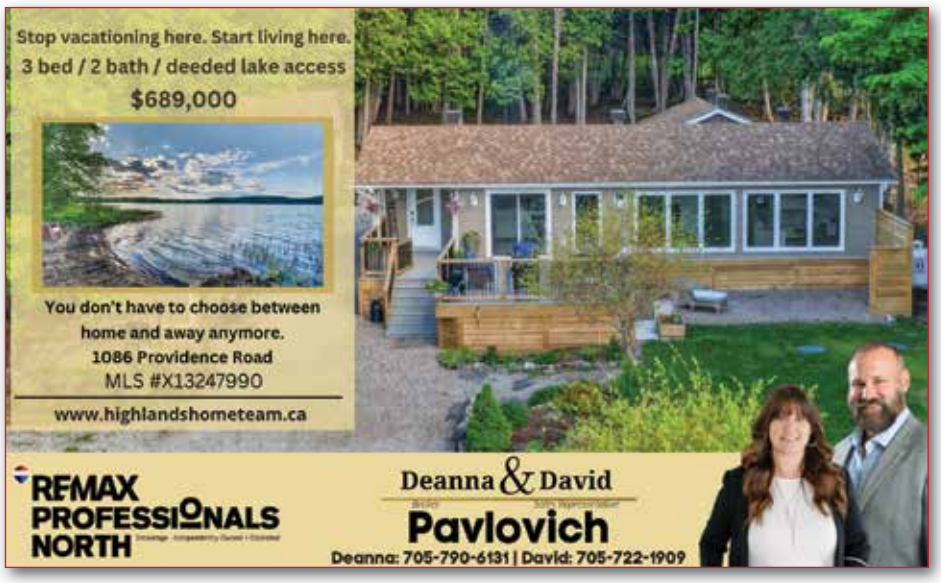
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## 7180 GELERT ROAD $569,000

This charming family home located on the edge of Haliburton walking distance to schools - extensively renovated with open -concept living , dining and kitchen area on the main floor - stone fireplace in living rm - laminate flooring - main floor laundry - 3 bedrooms - 2 baths - family room - huge rear deck for outdoor enjoyment - rear yard backs onto a wooded area

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## LITTLE GLAMOUR LAKE $679,900

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## SOUTH LAKE $918,000

Year-round cottage life at it's finest! A private, level lot with over 200 ft. water frontage on South Lake and 3.8 acres of privacy. This beautiful 3-bdrm Panabode cottage is completely turnkey. Spacious kitchen, sunroom, plus a deck & hot tub. More amenities include stone walkways around the waterfront, perennial gardens, drive shed for the toys, and a portable vehicle shelter. Only minutes to town.

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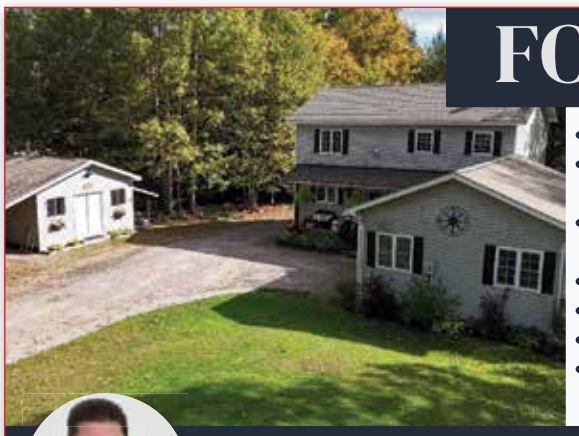

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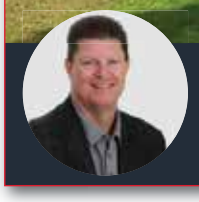
- Located in West Guilford on the Gull River
- 177' River Frontage
- 1.01 Acres
- Private Setting
- Boat from the dock to Pine, Grass and Maple Lakes



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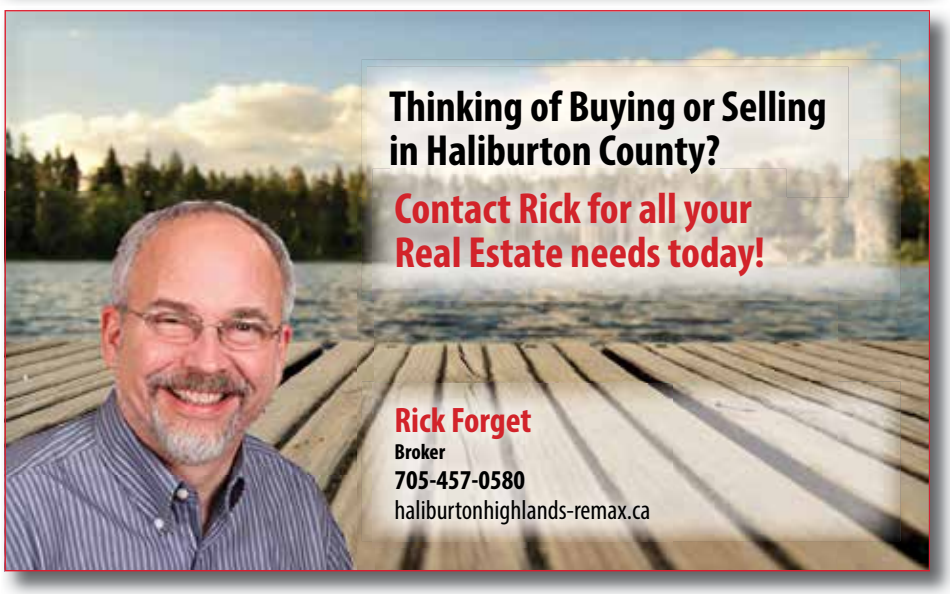


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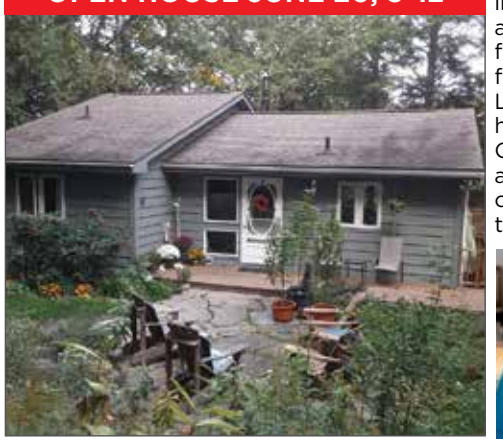

Glen Lake is a motor-free lake located in Eagle Lake. Beautifully treed, 2 acre property has 154.9 ft. of water frontage. Features 3 BR/2 Baths w/ finished basement. Custom. Main Level 2 BRs/Den. The Lower Level has a finished Family Room, 3rd. BR, Office, Laundryroom, 2nd. Bathroom and Workshop. 24'x24' garage w/ 1 car bay with Electric Car Charger and the attached Workshop

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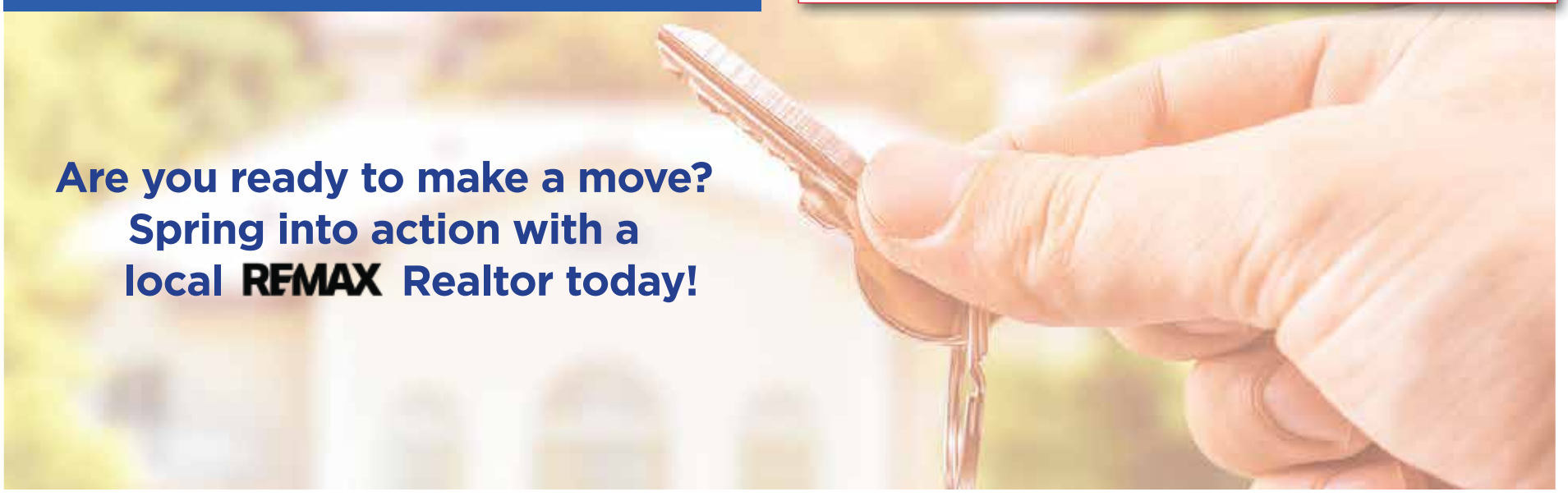

# Nature in your backyard

*County Life* welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Heron in flight by Rob Barnes

Chipmunk in the birdhouse Yvonne Friend

Loon takeoff by Jill Moulton

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## Legion Events

### Branch 624 Wilberforce

Thursday June 18
10 a.m. – Painting class with Luann,
7 p.m. Horseshoes - $5/player
Friday June 19 - 5 to 8 p.m.
Wings and Jam - $15/lb
Saturday June 20, 3 p.m.
Meat Draw - $1 tickets
Monday June 22, 7 p.m.
Darts - $5/player
Tuesday June 23, 1 p.m. Exercise Club
Wednesday June 24, 2 p.m.
Darts - $5/player
5 to 6:30 p.m. – Quick supper - $10
6:30 p.m. – Open Crib
Thursday June 25, 10 a.m. – Social Rec, 7 p.m. – Horseshoes - $5/player
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

### Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid Euchre 1 p.m.,
Card night 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed Darts, 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Bingo- Doors open at 5 p.m., play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m.
Meat draw 5 p.m.
2nd Sunday of the month. Ladies Auxiliary - 11 a.m.
3rd Thursday of the month 7 p.m. executive meeting. 7:30 p.m. general meeting (members only)
Last Sunday of the month - All you can eat breakfast
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices.
Email: 441RCL@gmail.com Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

### Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the
month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
*Planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome!* Club
room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

### Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636

A splash of red by Vivien Mausz

Nose to nose by Randy Moratz.

Black and white Iris by Grace Schuurmans

Moose close up by Tammy Nash

# Glimpses of the past

## Regatta At University Camp A Century Ago

**RUSS WUNKER**
*Glimpses of the Past*

This real photo postcard is titled "Regatta University Camp Gull Lake, Minden, Ont." While the postmark is unclear, the stamp used provides a clue. The rate for a postcard to the U.S.A. was two cents from 1915 to 1928. Thus, this image records one of the first Gull Lake Regattas.

Depicted are over a half dozen canoes, five other water craft, the wharf, and wooden diving tower. Note the Union Jacks at the stern of three of the boats.

## Home Hardware Building Centre June Artist Feature - Brad Small

**Northforge Engraving:** Precision Craftsmanship from the Heart of the Highlands
Based in the scenic Haliburton and Minden area, Northforge Engraving is where modern technology meets rustic artistry. Founded by local craftsman Brad Small, this startup specializes in transforming everyday items into personalized keepsakes with incredible detail. From rugged slate coasters and custom woodwork to elegant glass etching, Northforge is dedicated to providing high-quality, custom-etched goods that capture the spirit of the Highlands. Whether you are looking for a unique gift, a custom addition to your home, or branded items for your own business, Brad combines technical precision with a passion for the craft to bring your vision to life. Keep an eye out for Northforge Engraving at local artisan markets and fairs this season – where quality craftsmanship is always in the details. Follow them on Instagram and Facebook today to keep up to date with all of their latest work. Custom. Local. Crafted for You. This display will be in store for the month of June! Lots of great gifts to be found here, come check it out. /submitted
*Colour featured: Gaelic FD059-4*

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- **Tea Room**
- **Members Boutique**
- **Demonstrations**
- **Scissor Sharpener**
- **Vendors**
- **Door Prizes**

*Presented By: Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild*

**June 19, 2026 • 10am–6pm, June 20, 2026 • 10am–6pm**
**Admission: $10, Minden Curling Club**
**Come Celebrate Our 29th Anniversary!**

Haliburton Rotary Club

## Summer 2026

### Music in the Park

**Tuesdays @ 6:30, Head Lake Park, Haliburton**

| | |
|---|---|
| June 30 | Radio Rockers |
| July 7 | Jeff Moulton & Friends |
| July 14 | Benton Brown & The Low Down |
| July 21 | Shannon Butcher |
| July 28 | Ragged Company |
| Summerfest on Aug. 4 | Ryan Van Lee |
| Aug. 11 | Recycled Teenagers |
| Aug. 18 | Adverse Conditions |
| Aug. 25 | Suzie Vinnick |
| Sept. 1 | The Rockin' Bobs |

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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Kennisis cottager Ann Vanstone leads educational reform... pg 3

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ON STAGE
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*A Caring Career*
Marie Gage wins national award in occupational therapy... pg 25

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
# ECHO
*The Voice Of The Highlands Since 1882*

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1997 Vol. 115, No. 18 • 40 PAGES 90 cents (incl. GST)

## School projects pass another test of approval

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Construction projects planned by Haliburton's school board have re-entered the up-cycle of their Yo-Yo ride from the drawing board to reality.

In a sudden about-face, the local committee overseeing the amalgamation of the boards in Haliburton, Muskoka and Victoria County has thrown its support behind the expansion plans.

Just a month ago the committee didn't back the board exceeding spending levels previously approved by the province to upgrade the high school and replace Victoria Street School.

The move left the board facing the prospect of scaling down the projects to fit into a budget about half the size.

But last week the committee — including three trustees from both Haliburton and Victoria, plus four from Muskoka — reversed its decision, giving the two proposals its seal of approval.

"That's a big step. It's a real turnaround," said Haliburton board chair Cheryl Murdoch, who also chairs the transition committee. "We went to the meeting Tuesday night thinking the best we were going to get was support in principle, but the way it worked out was far better."

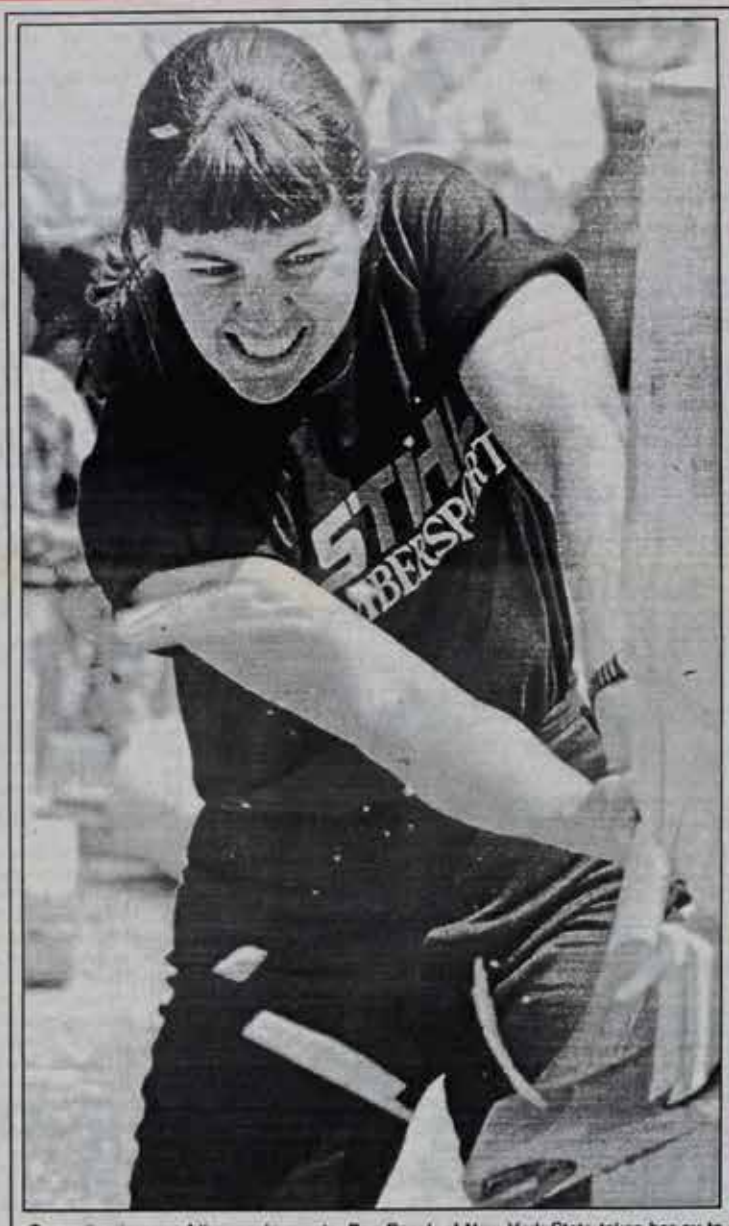
The board still needs to get final approval from the provincial Education Improvement Commission (EIC) and the Ministry of Education before it can move ahead with either of the construction projects.

However, board officials are hopeful the local transition committee's endorsement of the building proposals will carry a lot of weight at the provincial level.

The board could learn of the EIC's ruling on the projects as early as this week, said education director Brad Saunders.

The commission has said it will try to notify boards of its decisions within 72 hours of receiving their construction proposals.

See LOCAL page 7




Competing in one of the men's events, Peg Pasek of New York State takes her ax to a log during Saturday's Timbersport competition on Main Street Minden . More photos on pages 16 and 17.

## Tempers flare in Galway/Cavendish

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Things got pretty hot in the Galway-Cavendish council chambers on Sunday morning, and it wasn't just because there were about 75 people jammed into a space which was designed to accommodate half that number.

Tempers boiled over both during and after the meeting, which degenerated into an insult-hurling match before the hour was out.

Since most of the 70-odd people gathered among two small rooms and the hallway were in favour of the motion to have this northern Peterborough County municipality join Haliburton County, their anger was directed towards the two council members who voted against the move.

Even after Reeve Oliver Lloyd called for the meeting to end, the shouting continued, with Lloyd and Councillor Ken Carson taking the brunt of the sharp and sometimes nasty barbs.

"It was actually pretty calm. I thought there'd be a riot," said Kinmount historian Guy Scott after the meeting ended. "This was meeting number five or six and we're losing our patience."

(Scott was at the meeting and while he agrees with the decision to join Haliburton County, was not one of those who took part in the slanging match.)

He explains that many people

See GALWAY page 8

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## Fight in park mars last day of classes

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Haliburton's high school is vowing to crack down on students who skip the last day of classes after a very public fight on Wednesday at Head Lake Park that sent one teenager to hospital with minor injuries.

Officers with the Minden OPP had to be called in to disperse those who remained from a crowd of at least 125 students following the afternoon brawl.

Students — many who were cutting the final day of class before exams — began congregating at the park shortly before 12 noon.

About two hours later the peaceful gathering turned violent when two male teenagers started to fight.

Nearly all of the students in the park formed a large circle around the two fighting, many of them jeering and calling out at the fighters.

At one point (as could be seen from The Echo's office) one of the teens was pushed into Head Lake with at least two other students on top of him, punching and hitting him.

The crowd of student spectators let out a large chorus of

See POLICE page 2

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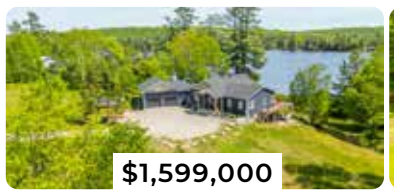
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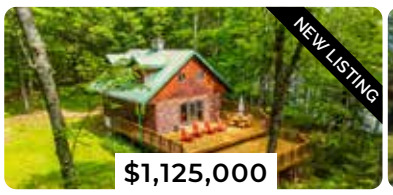

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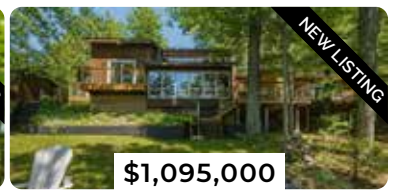

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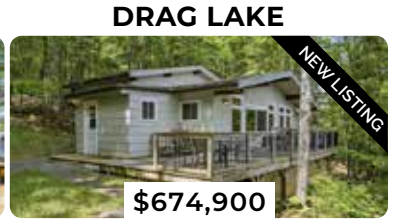

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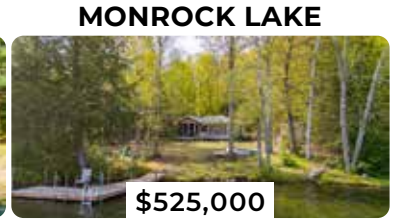
$525,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13177210

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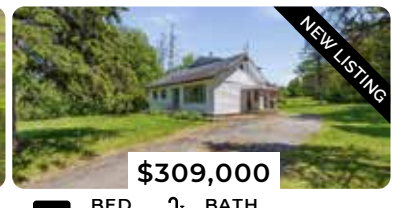

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